

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

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EA/VLC - MR. CARNEY
EUR/NE - MR. SHUMATE
IO/HR - MR. HEWITT
IO - MR. MEZVINSKY

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM,CB

SUBJECT: BRITISH INITIATIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA
AT UNHRC

REF: A. 77 LONDON 20502 B. GENEVA 456

1. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICERS SQUIRE AND MILLINGTON CALLED
ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS SCHNEIDER
JANUARY 9. THE PURPOSE OF THE CALL WAS TO CONSULT ABOUT
ARRANGING COORDINATION OF US SUPPORT FOR HMG'S INITIATIVE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA AT THE UPCOMING UN HUMAN RIGHTS
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COMMISSION SESSION. THE BRITISH ARE SEEKING U.S. INFORMA-
TION ABOUT CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS FOR USE IN
DOCUMENTING THEIR CASE, AND OUR CLOSELY COORDINATED SUPPORT
OF THEIR INITIATIVE AT THE UNHRC SESSION. THEY DO NOT
BELIEVE THE CURRENT FIGHTING WITH VIETNAM IS GROUNDS FOR
DELAYING THIS INITIATIVE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO INFORMATION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS COMPILED ACCOUNTS FROM CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, PUBLIC MEDIA REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS IN U.S. HOLDINGS AND PASSED THEM TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY.

3. TACTICALLY, THE BRITISH PLAN TO INFORM THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY NOTE DURING THE CURRENT MONTH THAT THEY PLAN TO RAISE THE CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AT THE UNHRC SESSION ON THE BASIS OF AGENDA ITEM 12 (ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS)

4. HMG HAS CONSULTED WITH THE EC-9 ABOUT SUPPORTING ITS INITIATIVE. ONLY DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND IRELAND HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL DO SO. THE FRENCH DEMURRED, NOTING THEY HAD ALREADY REFERRED TO THE CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE BRITISH EXPECT THE FRENCH WILL NOT OPPOSE THEIR EFFORT, HOWEVER.

5. WITH REGARD TO COORDINATION OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH INITIATIVE, SCHNEIDER SUGGESTED THAT THE BRITISH DELEGATION CONTACT CHIEF OF U.S. DELEGATION MEZVINSKY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED AS THE OPENING OF THE UNHRC SESSION APPROACHES, AND HOW THE U.S. CAN BEST SUPPORT THE BRITISH DURING THE MEETING. SQUIRE AND MILLINGTON AGREED TO PASS THE SUGGESTION OF A MEETING OF DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA TO CONFIDENTIAL

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LONDON. THEY ALSO INDICATED THAT HMG WOULD SHARE ITS DRAFT NOTE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL WITH THE USG BEFORE SUBMITTING IT. SCHNEIDER STATES THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HOLD A STRATEGY SESSION LATE THIS WEEK TO WORK OUT U.S. VIEWS FURTHER.

6. SCHNEIDER SUGGESTED THAT THE BRITISH EFFORT MIGHT HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING IF IT WERE SUPPORTED BY A RESPECTED THIRD WORLD NATION. SENEGAL, VENEZUELA AND JAMAICA WERE THROWN OUT AS POSSIBILITIES.

7. THE FOREGOING WAS BEING PREPARED FOR TRANSMISSION WHEN REF B WAS RECEIVED. WITH RESPECT TO THE BRITISH QUESTION OF POSSIBLE U.S. CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THEIR RESOLUTION ON CAMBODIA, THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED SQUIRE AND MILLINGTON THAT WE DO NOT FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE RESOLUTION TO BE PERCEIVED AS A BRITISH-US EFFORT, ALTHOUGH WE ASSURED THEM OF OUR STRONG SUPPORT IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CAMBODIA TO DOCUMENT THEIR CASE AND IN SUPPORTING THEIR EFFORTS AT THE SESSION. THE QUESTION OF OUR CO-SPONSORSHIP, BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE CHANCES OF THE RESOLUTION,

WILL BE DECIDED AT A LATER DATE.
CHRISTOPHER

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